to the following restriction groups: Group I (claims 1, 2, 8-11, 13, and 14), Group II (claims 3-6), Group III (claim 7), and Group IV (claim 12).

Request for Reconsideration

Claims 1-14 are subject to a restriction requirement in which the claims were assigned to four different groups. It is submitted that this Requirement is in error and should be modified, as follows.

In particular, applicants request reconsideration of Groups I and III of the restriction requirement. Examiner's Group I (claims 1 and 2) is drawn to polypeptides having RNase P protein activity, and Examiner's Group III (claims 7-11, 13, and 14) is drawn to antibodies that bind a polypeptide having RNase P protein activity (claim 7) and methods of using a polypeptide having RNase P protein activity (claims 8-11, 13, and 14). Applicants submit that claims 8-11, 13, and 14 should be included in Group I instead of Group III because these claims recite methods of using the polypeptide with RNase P protein activity of claim 1 rather than methods of using the antibody of claim 7.

Therefore, applicants submit that Groups I should be modified to include claims 1, 2, 8-11, 13, and 14 and Group III should include claim 7.

Support for Amendment

The specification was amended to correct typographical errors in the sequence identifiers so that the sequence identifiers refer to the appropriate sequences in the Sequence Listing, filed May 3, 2001.

Claim 13 was amended to depend from claim 11 instead of claim 8 (see, for example, page 3, lines 18-25, of the specification).

CONCLUSION

Applicants request that the claims be regrouped as follows: Group I - claims 1, 2, 8-11, 13, and 14, Group II - Examiner's Group II, Group III - claim 7, and Group IV - Examiner's Group IV. Applicants intend to elected Group I of this modified grouping with a species election of SEQ ID NO: 27 (*Neisseria gonorrhoea*), which is recited in claim 2.

A marked-up version indicating the amendments made to the specification and claims, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii) and (c)(1)(ii), is enclosed. Also enclosed is a petition to extend the period for replying for four months, to and including January 29, 2002. If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 29, 2002

Kristina Bieker-Brady, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 39,109

Clark & Elbing LLP
176 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617-428-0200
Facsimile: 617-428-7045

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Venkat Gopalan et al.	Art Unit:	1652
Serial No.:	09/516,061	Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
Filed:	March 1, 2000	Customer No.:	21559
Title:	NOVEL BACTERIAL RNASE P PROTEINS AND THEIR USE IN IDENTIFYING ANTIBACTERIAL COMPOUNDS		

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the specification:

A marked-up version of the paragraph on page 9, lines 1-23, of the specification is shown below.

Figs. 2A-2S shows the nucleic acid sequences (SEQ ID NOs 1-19) encoding the amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NOs 20-38) of the bacterial RNase P polypeptides of the invention. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequences were derived from the following pathogenic bacterial species: *Streptococcus mutans* (Fig. 2A; SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 20 [18], respectively); *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (Fig. 2B; SEQ ID NOs: 2 and 21 [19], respectively); *Salmonella paratyphi* A (Fig. 2C; SEQ ID NOs: 3 and 22 [20], respectively); *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Fig. 2D; SEQ ID NOs: 4 and 23 [21], respectively); *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* (Fig. 2E; SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 24 [22], respectively); *Chlamydia trachomatis* (Fig. 2F; SEQ ID NOs: 6 and 25 [23], respectively); *Vibrio cholerae* Serotype 01, Biotype El Tor, Strain N16961 (Fig. 2G; SEQ ID NOs: 7 and 26 [24], respectively);

Neisseria gonorrhoea FA 1090 (Fig. 2H; SEQ ID NOs: 8 and 27 [25], respectively); *Neisseria meningitidis* Serogroup A, Strain Z2491 (Fig. 2I; SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 28 [26], respectively); *Streptococcus pyogenes* M1 (Fig. 2J; SEQ ID NOs: 10 and 29 [27], respectively); *Bordetella pertussis* Tohama I (Fig. 2K; SEQ ID NOs: 11 and 30 [28], respectively); *Porphyromonas gingivalis* W83 (Fig. 2L; SEQ ID NOs: 12 and 31 [29], respectively); *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Type 4 (Fig. 2M; SEQ ID NOs: 13 and 32 [30], respectively); *Clostridium difficile* 630 (Fig. 2N; SEQ ID NOs: 14 and 33 [31], respectively); *Camphylobacter jejuni* NCTC (Fig. 2O; SEQ ID NOs: 15 and 34 [32], respectively); *Bacillus anthracis* Ames (Fig. 2P; SEQ ID NOs: 16 and 35 [33], respectively); *Mycobacterium avium* 104 (Fig. 2Q; SEQ ID NOs: 17 and 36 [34], respectively); *Staphylococcus aureus* NCTC 8325 (Fig. 2R; SEQ ID NOs: 18 and 37 [35], respectively); and *Staplylococcus aureus* COL (Fig. 2S; SEQ ID NOs: 19 and 38 [36], respectively).

In the claims:

A marked-up version of claim 13 is shown below.

13. The method of claim 11 [8], wherein said fluorescence analysis is carried out in a buffer comprising 10-40 mg/ml carbonic anhydrase and 10-100 μg/ml polyC.

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